

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1354

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USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 244

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UK, EI

SUBJECT: PROVISIONAL IRA TO CONTINUE ATTACKS ON BUSINESSMEN

REF: (A) BELFAST 236 (B) BELFAST 230 (C) DUBLIN 1309

1. SUNDAY NEWS JULY 4 CARRIED EXCLUSIVE STORY QUOTING SOURCES CLOSE TO PROVISIONAL IRA TO EFFECT PROVISIONALS AIMED TO CONTINUE AND TO ESCALATE ATTACKS AGAINST BUSINESSMEN (REF A). "THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO CLARIFY IN REVOLUTIONARY TERMS THE CLASS ISSUE OF THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE BRITISH WAR MACHINE. HAVING ATTACKED THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG, WE ARE NOW ATTACKING THE BUSINESS ELEMENTS WHICH CONSTITUTE ITS BASE." ATTACKS ON BUSINESS LEADERS STRENGTHEN WIDESPREAD CONVICTION AMONG NORTHERN IRELAND LOYALISTS THAT ANTI-TERRORIST CAMPAIGN CAN BE WAGED MOST EFFECTIVELY UNDER DEVOLVED GOVERNMENT. IF THIS SERVES TO PUSH LOYALISTS TOWARD POLITICAL ACCOMODATION WITH MINORITY THEN PROVISIONAL TACTICS WILL HAVE BACKFIRED.

2. THERE INCREASING PROVISIONAL IRA ACTIVITY IN LONDONDERRY (REF B). SNIPER FIRE HAS KILLED ONE SOLDIER AND WOUNDED ANOTHER
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AND IN CONFRONTATION WITH TROOPS IN BOGSIDE LATE LAST WEEK

YOUNG PROVISIONAL APPARENTLY KILLED BY HIS OWN GRENADE.
AMONG OTHER BOMBINGS WAS HOTEL ADJACENT TO USNAVCOMMSTA.
SPECULATION IN LONDONDERRY ABOUT INCREASE IN VIOLENCE
CENTERS AROUND PROVISIONALS DETERMINATION TO DEMONSTRATE
HOSTILITY BOTH TO ENDING SPECIAL CATEGORY (POLITICAL)
PRISONER STATUS AND TO REVELATIONS WESTMINSTER JULY 2 THAT
SENTENCES WILL BE INCREASED ON CONVICTION CERTAIN OFFENSES
SUCH AS POSSESSION FIREARMS AND MEMBERSHIP IN PROSCRIBED
ORGANIZATIONS.

3. SINCE LAST REPORT AT LEAST TEN PEOPLE HAVE DIED IN
CONTINUING VIOLENCE. TWO OF THESE WERE PROVISIONAL IRA
EXECUTIONS OF "COLLABORATORS" AND THE OTHERS, INCLUDING
FIVE MEN MACHINE-GUNNED IN A BAR, WERE VICTIMS OF SECTARIAN
ATTACKS.

4. THOMAS PASSMORE, HEAD OF ORANGE ORDER BELFAST HAS
SUGGESTED RECENT BOMBINGS IN REPUBLIC (REF C) WERE ALSO
WORK OF PROVISIONAL IRA FOLLOWING PRECEDENT OF BLAMING MURDER
OF SENATOR BILLY FOX FALSELY ON ULSTER FREEDOM FIGHTERS.
CONGEN FINDS PASSMORE THEORY FAR FETCHED BUT NOTES THAT
EXECUTION OF BOMBINGS MORE SOPHISTICATED THAN USUAL
LOYALIST PARAMILITARY ATTEMPTS.

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